

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of February 8, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

The Applicant has updated Page 1 of the specification by replacing its first line by a paragraph entitled "Cross-Reference to Related Application". The Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new matter.

Regarding Amendments

independent claims 1, 19 and 38 are amended to clarify that the, or each, bubble nucleation section of the heater element has a cross-section smaller than the remainder and to respectively incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 4, 22 and 41;

dependent claim 4, 9, 22, 23, 28, 41 and 45 are cancelled;

dependent claims 18, 37 and 54 are amended to delete the term "substantially"; and

dependent claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10-17, 20, 21, 24-27, 29-36, 39, 40, 42-44 and 46-53 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of pending claims 4, 17, 22, 36, 41 and 53 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

Regarding Claim Objections

Regarding Claim 1

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 1 (and claims 19 and 38) to clarify that the, or each, bubble nucleation section of the heater element has a cross-section smaller than the remainder, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim 9

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection based on the above-described amendment cancelling claim 9.

Regarding Claim 18

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 18 (and claims 37 and 54) to delete the term "substantially", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim 23

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection based on the above-described amendment cancelling claim 23.

Regarding Specification Objection

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection based on the above-described amendment cancelling claims 9, 28 and 45 which recite the terminology cited by the Examiner.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the art rejections of the claims over Andrews et al. (US 6,568,792), Tachihara (US 5,481,287), Campbell et al. (US 4,870,433), Silverbrook (US 6,019,457), Otsuka et al. (US 5,485,179) and Anagnostopoulos et al. (US 6,502,925), based on the above-described amendment to independent claims 1, 19 and 38 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 4, 22 and 41 and for at least the reasons given by the Examiner in the Allowable Subject Matter of the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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